

**S/N Unknown**

**PATENT**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: Oystein IHLE et al.

Examiner: Unknown

Serial No.: Unknown

Group Art Unit: Unknown

Filed: Herewith

Docket: 697.019US1

Title: METHOD FOR SEPARATING NUCLEIC ACIDS INTO POPULATIONS

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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

**In the Specification**

On page 1, after the title, please insert the following section:

**--CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

This application is a continuation under 35 U.S.C. 111(a) of International Patent Application No. PCT/GB99/03995, filed November 30, 1999 (published as WO 00/32812 on June 8, 2000), which claims priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 from GB Application No. 9826247.0, filed November 30, 1998, and which claims priority from U.S. Provisional Application SN 60/144,802, filed July 21, 1999, all of which applications are incorporated herein by reference.--

On page 1, before line 4, please insert the heading --BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 3, between lines 13 and 14, please insert the heading --SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--.

On page 4, between lines 17 and 18, please insert the heading --DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION--.

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**In the Claims**

Please cancel claims 2-38 without prejudice or disclaimer.

**Remarks**

The above-presented changes to the specification have been made to add references to priority applications and to correct informalities.

Claims 2-38 have been cancelled. Claim 1 remains pending.

An **Abstract of the Disclosure** is attached hereto.

The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' Representatives at the below-listed telephone number if there are any questions regarding this communication.

Respectfully submitted,

OYSTEIN IHLE ET AL.

By their Representatives,

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By

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Date of Deposit: May 30, 2001

This paper or fee is being deposited on the date indicated above with the United States Postal Service pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10, and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Box Patent Application, Washington, D.C. 20231.

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